

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-04 L-03 SIL-01

LAB-04 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 ACDA-10

AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CIEP-02 EPA-04 ERDA-07

TRSE-00 H-02 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SS-15 /151 W

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R 292050Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7109

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HALIFAX UNN

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2832

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EFIS ICNAF CA UR FR PLOS

SUBJ CANADIAN CLOSURE OF ATLANTIC PORTS TO SOVIET

FISHING FLEET AND PRESSURES FOR 200-MILE ZONE

REF OTTAWA 2787

1. IN CONTINUED QUESTIONING ON JULY 25 IN COMMONS ON SUBJECT ACTION, FISHERIES MINISTER LEBLANC DISAVOWED SUGGESTION BY MP DOUGLAS (NDP) THAT CLOSURE OF THE ATLANTIC PORTS SHOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF REMOVING THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET OFF CANADIAN SHORES. LEBLANC STATED "THAT WAS NEVER INTENDED AND THAT WAS NEVER INDICATED IN MY STATEMENT (OTTAWA 2750), AND IT IS TOTALLY IRRELEVANT TO THE SUBJECT. PORT CLOSURE IS RELATED DIRECTLY TO VIOLATION OF ICNAF REGULATIONS."

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2. ON MATTER OF POSSIBLE USE BY THE SOVIETS OF THE FRENCH

ISLANDS OF ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, LEBLANC EXPANDED ON HIS STATEMENT OF JULY 23 IN COMMONS (REFTEL) BY STATING THAT "WE HAVE INDICATED TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THE REASONS FOR OUR CLOSING. WE INVITED THEM TO CONSIDER OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND THAT WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IF THEY DID NOT SUPPORT OUR POINT OF VIEW....THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WAS INVITED IN AND DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE UNDERTOOK TO INFORM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OF ANY INCREASE IN THE NORMAL LEVEL OF BUSINESS AT ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.".

3. WITH REGARD TO THE UNANIMOUS JULY 23 HOUSE OF COMMONS MOTION SUPPORTING A 40 PERCENT DECREASE IN ICNAF FISHING QUOTAS (PARA. 3 REFTEL), LEBLANC CLARIFIED THAT THE GOC IS ASKING ICNAF "FOR A 40 PER CENT REDUCTION IN FISHING EFFORT BY ALL NATIONS, EXCEPT CANADA. WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE CANADIAN CATCH AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL."

4. ON A RELATED FISHING MATTER, LEBLANC WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT REPORTS OF RECENT DUMPING OF 94,000 POUNDS OF HADDOCK CAUGHT IN EXCESS OF QUOTAS AND ASKED IF "IN LIGHT OF THIS TREMENDOUS LOSS OF PRIME FOOD", HE WOULD "PERMIT ALL FISH ONCE CAUGHT BY CANADIAN FISHERMEN TO BE LANDED AT CANADIAN PORTS UNTIL THE 200- MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IS EITHER DETERMINED INTERNATIONALLY OR UNILATERALLY BY THIS GOVERNMENT." LEBLANC RESPONDED THAT THE SUGGESTION IS "VERY APPEALING, BUT THERE IS ONE SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE. IT COULD RE-OPEN THE WHOLE AREA. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE ICNAF REGULATION AND THE QUOTAS TO WHICH WE HAVE AGREED. THIS COULD OPEN THE WHOLE AREA TO FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID."

5. IN A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, JOEY SMALLWOOD, FORMER NEWFOUNDLAND PREMIER AND LEADER OF NEW LIBERAL REFORM PARTY, IS LAUNCHING A CROSS-CANADA TOUR IN SUPPORT OF A 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT.

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6. COMMENT: CONGEN ST JOHN'S REPORTS THAT GOC CLOSURE ACTION IS PROBABLY GENERALLY SEEN BY NEWFOUNDLANDERS AS MAINLY COSMETICS AND THAT THE SOVIETS PROBABLY DON'T NEED THE EAST COAST PORTS AS MUCH AS THE PORTS NEED THEM. MAIN AND INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CLOSURE SEEN AS DESIGNED TO PUT OTHER FOREIGN FLEETS ON NOTICE THAT CANADA WILL TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT HER MARINE RESOURCES.

THERE IS, OF COURSE, REAL QUESTION AS TO WHAT OTHER ACTIONS ARE OPEN TO GOC THAT ARE REASONABLY ENFORCEABLE.

7. EXECUTIVE OF SHIPPING COMPANIES ON EAST COAST TOLD DCM JULY 27 THAT INDUSTRY REGARDED GOC ACTION OF CLOSING PORTS TO RUSSIANS AS STRICTLY "GRANDSTAND PLAY". IT WOULD INCONVENIENCE SOVIET TRAWLERS, PARTICULARLY IN DEPRIVING CREWS OF SHORE LEAVE, BUT NOT AFFECT THEIR CATCHES. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT GOC WOULD BE PRESSURED TO MAKE SOME MOVE TO EXTEND FISHERIES JURISDICTION SEAWARD EVEN BEFORE CONCLUSION OF LOS CONFERENCE.

8. IN THIS CONNECTION, FISHERIES COUNCIL OF CANADA HAS TAKEN POSITION IN RECENTLY RELEASED JUNE/JULY BULLETIN THAT GOC SHOULD TAKE STRONG INITIATIVES TO GET SUPPORT FOR UNILATERAL ACTION ON A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE BEFORE THE END OF 1975. A COUNCIL OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF ON JULY 29 THAT WHAT COUNCIL HAS IN MIND IS FOR GOC TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING THE U.S., TO ANNOUNCE UNILATERAL ACTION SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH CANADA OR AT LEAST AGREE NOT TO REPEAT NOT TO OBJECT TO CANADA'S ACTION. MINISTER LEBLANC, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO ADHERE TO THE LINE THAT CANADA WILL TRY TO GET A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON A REDUCTION IN FISHING EFFORTS WHEN ICNAF MEETS IN MONTREAL IN SEPTEMBER.

9. LOS IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION ALSO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT ATTENTION. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS ITEMS, PM TRUDEAU HAS SAID HE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH BREZHNEV IN HELSINKI AND SO INFORMED SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN IN A LETTER LAST WEEK. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS LETTER, TRUDEAU TOLD COMMONS ON JULY 28 THAT: "I DID RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE 200 MILE LIMIT AND INDICATED THAT IN FACT OUR ACTIONS NOW WERE PREDICATED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE WERE HOPING THAT THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RECOGNIZED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, THAT WE WERE ACTING AS TRUSTEES, GUARDIANS AND STEWARDS OF THIS RESOURCE SO THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME FOR EVERYBODY -- PREFERABLY FIRST FOR CANADIANS, BUT THAT THE RESOURCE ITSELF WOULD BE THERE. IT WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW EVOLVING TOWARD A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE THAT WE WERE TAKING OUR ACTION."

JOHNSON

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Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
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